4. Creation of world class infrastructure.

5. Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes.

6. Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism and

7. Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration and good governance and also of social and cultural values.

(b) Central financial assistance is extended to States/UTs for tourism projects selected in consultation with them. Projects of Uttaranchal for the year 2002-2003 have not been received so far.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending tourism projects

3216. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that over 3,000 projects sanctioned during the Seventh Five Year Plan to improve conditions around tourist spots, 2130 are still incomplete;

(b) if so, the reasons for slow pace of execution of projects; and

(c) the steps taken to develop integrated tourism circuits in order to boost tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned 345 tourism projects involving financial assistance of Rs. 55.07 crores to the State Governments/UT Administrations during the Seventh Plan. 254 projects have been completed so far as informed by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(b) The reasons for slow pace in completing the projects are as follows:

- Delay in transfer of land by the Revenue Department to the State Tourism Department.

- Delay in release of funds by the respective State Government.
- Clearance of projects from Forest/Environmental Department located in forest areas.

(c) Department of Tourism, Government of India has proposed to develop six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis in the Tenth Five Year Plan. The details of the circuits will be finalised in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Integrated approach to tourism

3217. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to introduce a comprehensive tourism policy as declared by the Prime Minister in his last Independence speech;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy; and

(c) in what manner the policy would address the co-ordination between the Ministries of Civil Aviation, Home, etc. for an integrated approach to tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Draft of a Tourism Policy has been prepared which broadly aims at the following:

- to position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;
- to harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism for employment generation, economic development and to provide impetus to rural tourism;
- to focus on domestic tourism as a way or driver of tourism growth;
- to position India as a global brand to take advantage of the burgeoning global travel and trade and the vast untapped potential of India as a destination;